

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02883 191523Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8044

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STADIS//////////

EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY ASST. SEC. SOBER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SA, US
SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: STATE 80338

1. TO ANSWER YOUR SPECIFIC QUERY, A MEETING OF JOINT SECURITY COMMISSION ON A SEMI-ANNUAL BASIS WITH AN IN-COUNTRY WORKING GROUP CONVENING BETWEEN THESE SESSIONS MIGHT PROVIDE A USEFUL FORM OF OVERSIGHT AND MANALEMENT.

2. HOWEVER, BEFORE WE CAN DECIDE WITH ANY PRECISION ON THE FORMAT FOR HANDLING SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO SAUDI ARABIA WE MUST FIRST MAKE A MUCH MORE FUNDAMENTAL DECISION ON WHAT OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WILL BE.

3. THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE. MANY OF THESE ITEMS ARE BEING HELD PENDING COMPLETION OF OUR ARMS SALES POLICY REVIEW. THE SAG IS ON THE THRESHOLD OF MAKING ADDITIONAL REQUESTS, SUCH AS FOR ADVANCED FIGHTER

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AIRCRAFT. WE WILL HAVE TO RESPOND TO THIS IN MAY WHEN CROWN PRINCE FAHD IS IN WASHINGTON. WE ALSO OWE THE SAG SOME WORD ON THE BALANCE OF MAVERICKS AND SIDEWINDERS. CLEARLY, THE JOINT SECURITY COMMISSION WOULD NOT BE THE FORUM TO DISCUSS THIS KIND OF BASIC BUSINESS. FURTHERMORE, ONCE THESE ISSUES HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH, THE CIEF MILITARY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTIONS OF THE 1974 SURVEY WILL ALL BE

ON THE TRACK. THEREAFTER, THE NUMBER OF MAJOR FMS ITEMS
THE SAG MAY REQUEST SHOULD DROP SHARPLY.
PORTER

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NNN

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